

REMARKS

Claims 1-14 are pending in this application, of which claims 1 and 2 have been amended.

Claims 13 and 14 are newly added.

Claim 2 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement.

Accordingly, claim 2 has been amended to correct the unclear language. Thus, the 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, rejection of claim 2 should be withdrawn.

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over JP 07237077A to Kume (hereafter "**JP '077**").

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

JP '077 discloses a work machining device having a work stocker 4 arranging a plurality of workpieces 1 and a work carrying mechanism 11 utilizing a vertically moving chuck 12 and an axial feed function of a table 2 for delivering the workpiece 1 between the work stocker 4 and the fixture 7.

The vertically moving chuck 12 grasps the workpiece 1 from the top, lifts it up and moves it into position on the work machining fixture 7. This is in contrast to the present invention, in which the spindle head is provided with a hand portion which approaches the bar workpiece only in a horizontal direction and grips and releases the bar workpiece, as shown sequentially in FIGS. 3A-3E. The hand portion is open at the top.

Accordingly, claim 1 has been amended to recite this distinction. Thus, the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejection of claim 1 should be withdrawn.

Claims 1-7, 11 and 12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over **JP '077** in view of U.S. Patent 6,131,259 to Stark et al. (hereafter "**Stark et al.**").

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Stark et al., cited as prior art from page 1, line 16 to page 2, line 9 of the specification of the instant application, has been cited for teaching a table 20 having a chuck swingable and rotatable for both milling and turning machining.

Stark et al., like **JP '077**, fails to teach, mention or suggest the hand portion which approaches the bar workpiece only in a horizontal direction and grips and releases the bar workpiece, as recited in the amendments to claim 1, which has also been added to claim 2.

Thus, the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejection of claims 1-7, 11 and 12 should be withdrawn.

Claim 8 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over **JP '077** in view of **Stark et al.** and further in view of U.S. Patent 6,394,716 to Huber et al. (hereafter "**Huber et al.**").

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Huber et al. discloses a process and a machine for fine machining of the tooth flanks of geared workpieces with a drive tool in the form of a gear wheel or worm gear which is in meshing contact with a workpiece, the axes of tool and workpiece intersecting. During machining of the workpiece the tool is driven in a direction of rotation which remains the same and adjustable torque values are applied to the workpiece in one direction and subsequently in the opposite direction.

Huber et al. has been cited for teaching that it is well known in the art to have a stocker with an index drive and swivel portion with the sleeves directed upwardly in parallel with the swivel axis.

Huber et al., like the other cited references, fails to teach, mention or suggest the amendments to claim 2, from which claim 8 indirectly depends.

Thus the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejection of claim 8 should be withdrawn.

The Examiner has indicated that claims 9 and 10 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicants respectfully defer this action until a FINAL Office Action, if any, is received.

Newly-added claims 13 and 14 recite that the hand portion grips and releases the bar workpiece at a position near the center of the bar workpiece, which is not disclosed in the cited references.

The claim amendments contained herein were considered and approved by the Examiner in the interview conducted September 14, 2005.

In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, claims 1-14, as amended, are in condition for allowance, which action, at an early date, is requested.

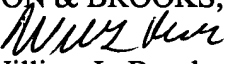
If, for any reason, it is felt that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/690,826
Response to Office Action dated June 24, 2005

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper, to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

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